

Assessment Plan for the Geology BS Program at Illinois State University  
Revised, July 1, 2009

The BS in Geology is the only option that existed for Geology majors for all but the last two years of the review period. Students who complete the non-teaching BS in Geology are expected to:

1. be able to identify, describe, and classify common, and some uncommon, earth materials (minerals and rocks); make scientific observations of these earth materials in the field and in the laboratory; and interpret their observations in a scientifically sound manner.

**Assessment 1: Field notebook aggregate score during GEO 395. Our goal is to have at least 80% of our students score at the B level (72% or above). We also hope to have the aggregate score of our students exceed that of their peer group (students from other Universities who participated at our field camp in the same year).**

**Assessment 2: Exit interview**

2. be familiar with the arrangement and structure of these earth materials, including how they originally form and how they are affected by physical, chemical, and biological activity after they form.

**Same as Goal 1.**

3. develop skill in the area of constructing and interpreting geologic maps.

**Assessment 1: Geologic map aggregate score in GEO 395. Our goal is to have at least 80% of our students score at the B level (72% or above). We also hope to have the aggregate score of our students exceed that of their peer group (students from other Universities who participated at our field camp in the same year).**

**Assessment 2: Exit interview**

4. develop models of the geometry and spatial relations of earth materials at depth.

**Assessment 1: Cross section aggregate score in GEO 395. Our goal is to have at least 80% of our students score at the B level (72% or above). We also hope to have the aggregate score of our students exceed that of their peer group (students from other Universities who participated at our field camp in the same year).**

**Assessment 2: Exit interview**

5. develop an appreciation for the enormity of time and the history of the Earth.

**Assessment 1: Stratigraphic Column score in GEO 395. Our goal is to have at least 80% of our students score at the B level (72% or above). We also hope to have the aggregate score of our students exceed that of their peer group (students from other Universities who participated at our field camp in the same year).**

**Assessment 2: Exit interview**

6. develop an appreciation of society's dependence on Earth resources and on the interaction between human activities and the natural environment.

**Assessment 1: Rating on GEO 296 term paper section on Economic Geology**

**Assessment 2: Exit interview**

**Assessment 3: Have at least 80% of our graduates complete a GEO 306 – Regional and Area Studies course**

7. learn the theoretical bases of geology and utilize opportunities to apply theoretical knowledge to field based problems.

**Assessment 1: Ability for >80% of our recent graduates to make first career step in graduate school or in the profession.**

**Assessment 2: Ability for >50% of our recent graduates to complete an independent research project.**

**Assessment 3: Exit interview**

8. develop appropriate analytical and quantitative skills for a career or advanced study in geology.

**Assessment 1: Ability of >80% of our graduates to pass out applied quantitative course (GEO 360, 361, 362, 364) at the B level or higher.**

**Assessment 2: Exit interview**

9. develop appropriate written and oral communication skills for a career or advanced study in geology.

**Assessment 1: GEO 296 Research Paper and Presentation.**

**Assessment 2: Exit interview**

*Geology Program Assessment Information*  
*Class of 2009*

Department of Geography-Geology  
Graduate Exit Survey

1. Rank your ability to identify, describe, and classify common earth materials (minerals and rocks); make scientific observations of these earth materials in the field and in the laboratory; and interpret their observations in a scientifically sound manner. 1 (low) to 10 (high) **8.6.**
2. Rank your ability to determine the structure of these earth materials, including how they originally form and how they are affected by physical, chemical, and biological activity after they form. 1 (low) to 10 (high) **8.4.**
3. Rank your skill in the area of constructing and interpreting geologic maps. 1 (low) to 10 (high) **8.2.**
4. Rank your skill in the area of constructing and interpreting geologic cross sections. 1 (low) to 10 (high) **8.0.**
5. Rank your understanding of the enormity of time and the history of the Earth. 1 (low) to 10 (high) **8.2.**
6. Rank your understanding of the theoretical bases of geology and your ability to apply theoretical knowledge to field based problems. 1 (low) to 10 (high) **8.2.**
7. Rank your analytical and quantitative skills for a career or advanced study in geology. 1 (low) to 10 (high) **8.6.**
8. Rank your appreciation of society's dependence on Earth resources and on the interaction between human activities and the natural environment. **7.2.**
9. Rank your written and oral communication skills for a career or advanced study in geology. 1 (low) to 10 (high) **9.2.**
10. How comfortable will you feel the first 3 months on the job or in graduate school? 1 (low) to 10 (high) **9.0.**
11. What is your satisfaction with the Geology Program? 1 (low) to 10 (high) **9.8.**
12. What is your satisfaction with career counseling by the faculty? Rank from 1 (low) to 10 (high) **9.2.**
13. What is your satisfaction with academic advising within the Department of Geosciences? Rank from 1 (low) to 10 (high) **9.8.**

Survey sent to:

chrislongton@yahoo.com, taking@ilstu.edu, bablock@ilstu.edu, peguse@ilstu.edu,  
ngchott@ilstu.edu, seclark@ilstu.edu, ealant@ilstu.edu, [dmkimpl@ilstu.edu](mailto:dmkimpl@ilstu.edu)

Five out of 8 responded. The average score is reported in bold at the end of the sentence.

**Assessment Rubric for GEO 296 Oral Presentation and Research Paper**

**Technical Content**

**The Oral Presentation adequately addressed the important Geologic elements of the topic**

**Stratigraphy**

Excellent			Poor
4	3	2	1

**Tectonic Framework of Sedimentation**

Excellent			Poor
4	3	2	1

**Geologic History**

Excellent			Poor
4	3	2	1

**Economic Significance**

Excellent			Poor
4	3	2	1

**Overall**

Excellent			Poor
4	3	2	1

**Presentation/Delivery**

**Timing**

Excellent			Poor
4	3	2	1

**A/V Materials**

Excellent			Poor
4	3	2	1

**Speech**

Excellent			Poor
4	3	2	1

**Answering Questions**

Excellent			Poor
4	3	2	1

**Overall**

Excellent			Poor
4	3	2	1